RG104 entry 217 box 2

Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, Aug 31st 1868

Hon Hugh McCulloch
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

I regret to report a serious accident which occurred at the Mint at a little before nine o'clock this morning from a gas-explosion in the Chief Coiners vault, resulting in the severe injury of Mr M. V. Davis, Coiners assistant, Andrew Steif Asst Coiner and Mr Horner Gas Fitter, the latter probably fatally injured. Mr Davis, on entering the room at 8 o'clock A M found indications of escaping gas and at once unlocked and opened the door of the vault and sent for the gas-fitter who in the course of half an hour came in, & after entering the vault called for a match which was handed to him by Mr Davis. The Explosion immediately followed and was very severe, destroying the office furniture and the window glass of the Room.

I caused the building to be closed immediately and took proper precautions to guard against any loss of bullion or money during the confusion which naturally followed. An examination made since the accident

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by an expert shows that there was no leakage or defect whatever in the gas-pipe or fixtures and the accident must have been the result of not turning off the gas at the close of business on Saturday.

Mr Davis who had charge of the vault is one of the most faithful and reliable men in the Mint and Mr Horner was permanently employed at the Mint on account of his skill as a Gas Fitter and his reliable character. The accident appears to have been the result of inadvertently lighting a match in the vault before sufficient time had elapsed for ventilation. I enclose Report of Professor Booth, (Melter and Refiner) and J. S. Cassin (Chief Engineer) who, at my request examined the vault &c. The remedy recommended will be adopted immediately.

Very Respectfully.
Your most obt. svt.
H. R. Linderman
Director

Philadelphia Mint
August 31, 1868

Hon, Hugh McCulluch
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir,
I regret to report a serious accident which occurred at the Mint at a little before nine o'clock this morning from a gas explosion in the Chief Coiner's vault, resulting in the severe injury of Mr. M. V. David, Coiner's assistant, Andrew Steif, Assistant Counter, and Mr. Horner, gas fitter, the latter probably fatally injured. Mr. Davis, on entering the room at 8 o'clock AM found indications of escaping gas and at once unlocked and opened the door of the vault and sent for the gas-fitter, who in the course of half an hour came in, and after entering the vault called for a match which was handed to him by Mr. Davis. The explosion immediately followed and was very severe, destroying the office furniture and the window glass of the room.

I caused the building to be closed immediately and took proper precautions to guard against any loss of bullion or money during the confusion which naturally followed. An examination made since the accident by an expert shows that there was no leakage or defect whatever in the gas pipe or fixtures and the accident must have been the result of not turning off the gas at the close of business on Saturday.

Mr. Davis, who had charge of the vault, is one of the most faithful and reliable men in the Mint, and Mr. Horner was permanently employed at the Mint on account of his skill as a gas fitter and his reliable character. The accident appears to have been the result of imprudently lighting a match in the vault before sufficient time had elapsed for ventilation. I enclose Report of Professor booth, (Melter and refiner) and I. S. Cassin (Chief Engineer) who, at my request examined the vault, etc. The remedy recommended will be adopted immediately.

Very respectfully,
H. R. Linderman
Director